Rome Scala Santa
October 5th 1877

Be assured my dear Maria that my Arthur never cares that your pension is for your whole life, independent of me, so do not be under any uneasiness, as he is a thoroughgood boy & I am very proud of him

You think your tent was equal to mine because you had all your windows & doors open!!. I am obliged to shut all at mid day for 6 hours or I shall be burnt up as in an oven - But now thank heaven it is all over & the cool has come - there is snow on the mountains

You'll be glad to know that I have done a life size portrait of Keats satisfactorily it seems to me very like the dear fellow - what a fortune it was my meeting him in my early life for he has been my stepping stone & is even now

Now I cannot say more at present as the good Doctor is waiting for me

Your loving brother Joe

my dear Eleanor left me very comfortable in the new carpet which enables me to walk better & without pain, & also he brought me a Plutarch in 6 vols & I am rather pleased that I forget it as I read on so read over & over again but I am unfortunate as I begin to remember it how

I expect you'll see Keats new work in the papers for Mr Buxton Forman tells there has never been any thing like it - as yet I have not seen it

There is an elder sister of the Doctors come to live with us & we are all very glad & never dull

You must tell me about the dear girls & the Bride - I never go out in the evening & do nothing but take care of myself

Your loving Joe